Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend page 2, lines 17-25 as follows:

There have been many attempts in the past to eliminate the poisoning of the anode catalyst by CO or to reduce its effect. A great deal of work has been carried out on the development of CO-tolerant electrocatalysts, primarily catalysts based on platinum/ruthenium alloys which have improved tolerance when operated in conjunction with CO-containing fuel gases (cf., for example, US 6,007,934 and US 6,066,410). Furthermore, the "air-bleed" process is known from the literature. Here, about 1-3% by volume of air is additionally introduced into the anode space of the cell to oxidize the CO adsorbed on the Pt or PtRu electrocatalyst to CO_2 and thus remove it (cf., for example, S. Gottesfeld and J. Pafford, J. Electrochem. Soc. 135, (1988), ~~139-146~~ 2651-2652). The reaction proceeds in the gas phase and can be represented as follows: